

Serial No.: 10/728,405
Amendment

Attorney Docket No. 004017.0006

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the Specification in this application as follows:

The drawings have been amended in order to conform to the specification.

Page 15, paragraph 55:

Figure 4 illustrates an optional feature of the hollow tube 30. A restrictor, pinch valve, check valve or other type of valve mechanism 48 38 may be installed within the hollow tube 30 or in the special bottom head element or lower end section 32 of the hollow tube 30 to partially or totally close off the internal passageway of the hollow tube 30 and stop or control the flow or movement of aggregate materials 44 and optional additive materials. This valve 48 may be mechanically or hydraulically opened, partially opened or closed in order to control movement of aggregate materials 44 through the hollow tube 30. It may also operate by gravity in the manner of a check valve which opens when raised and closes when lowered onto the aggregate material 44.

Page 17, paragraph 58:

Typically, the internal diameter of the hollow tube 30 and head element 32 are uniform or equal, though the external diameter of head element 32 is typically greater than that of hollow tube 30. Alternatively, when a valve mechanism 54 is utilized, the internal diameter of the head element 32 may be greater than the internal diameter of the hollow tube 30. Head element 32 may be integral with hollow tube 30 or formed separately and bolted or welded onto hollow tube 30. Typically, the inside diameter of the hollow tube 30 is between 6 to 10 inches and the external diameter of the head element 32 is about 10 to 18 inches. The opening diameter 53 in Figure 14 at the extreme lower end or leading end of the head element 32 may be equal to or less than the internal diameter of the head element 32. For example, referring to Figure 14, the head element 32 may have an internal diameter of 12 inches and the opening diameter 53 may ~~have a diameter of~~ be 6 to 10 inches, while in Figure 16, with the sacrificial cap embodiment

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described hereinafter, the discharge opening of head element 32 has the same diameter as the internal diameter of the head element 32 and hollow tube 30.

Page 17, paragraph 59:

Also the plate or valve 54 may be configured to facilitate closure when the hollow tube 30 is pushed downward into the soil matrix 36 or against aggregate material 44 in the formed cavity. For example, the diameter of member 54 may exceed that of opening 53 52 as shown in Figure 14 or the edge 55 of the valve member may be beveled as depicted in Figure 15A to engage beveled edge 59 of opening 53 52. Then when applying a static or other downward force to the hollow tube 30, the valve plate 54 will be held in a closed position in opening 53 52.

Pages 21-22, paragraph 71:

Figure 18 illustrates a partially formed pier by the process described wherein multiple lifts 72 have been formed sequentially by compaction and the hollow tube 30 is rising as aggregate 44 is filling cavity portion 85X. Figure 19 illustrates a completely formed pier 76 by the process described. Figure 20 illustrates a formed pier 76 with uplift anchor 68, 70 or tell-tale installed. Figure 21 illustrates an optional preloading step on a formed pier 76 by placement of a weight 75, for example, on the formed pier and an optional indicator modulus test being performed on the formed pier 76 comprised of multiple compacted lifts 72 78.